

FISCAL NOTE

HB 320 - SB 624

March 12, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires that termination of parental rights proceedings are pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure unless the interests of justice require proceedings are pursuant to the Rules of Juvenile Procedure; requires hearings about juveniles be conducted pursuant to Rule 27 of the Rules of Juvenile Procedure; broadens the openness of juvenile proceedings; eliminates the restriction of the court to change, modify, or vacate the existing or previous order; requires a petition be filed alleging a child to be dependent, neglected, abused, unruly, or delinquent prior to such child being placed in state custody.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- There will not be a significant increase in expenditures to the state and local courts for revisions to rules and procedures. Any increase can be absorbed within existing state and local expenditures.
- According to the Comptroller's Office, currently, a child has to be found dependent, neglected, abused, unruly, or delinquent prior to being placed in the custody of the Department of Children's Services (DCS).
- DCS will be programmatically impacted by this bill. Such is estimated to be minimal and will not have a significant impact on expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director